

City of Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Minutes of the Streets, Bridges and Associated Drainage  
Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 12, 2017

A meeting of the Streets, Bridges and Associated Drainage Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on January 12, 2017, in the Planning Conference Room #326 of the City by Aaron St. Amant.

Committee members present:

Aaron St. Amant – Ward 3 (Chairman)  
Stan Vlademar – Ward 1  
Tiffinee Baker – Ward 2  
Robert Brown – Ward 3  
David Armbruster – Ward 4  
Nathaniel Deason – Ward 4  
Philip Rosar – Ward 4

City Staff Present:

Stan Snodgrass, Director of Engineering  
Jennifer Stevens, Accounting Technician

Minutes of the November 17, 2016 Meeting

Aaron St. Amant made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting and Robert Brown seconded. The minutes were approved 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

New Business:

Aaron St. Amant asked if there was any follow up items to be discussed.

Stan Vlademar asked what our criteria is for fixing the railroad crossings. Stan Snodgrass stated if a street improvement or overlay project is being undertaken, the crossing is typically replaced with it. The CIP also includes an annual amount to upgrade a couple of crossings which are not on street improvement projects. Stan Vlademar asked about the railroad tracks on North A & B Streets. Stan Snodgrass stated that on North B Street, one crossing had recently been replaced and we are working with Fort Smith Railroad to get the other three replaced. The ones on North A Street are currently on hold for any improvements pending resolution of the possible closure of portions of that street.

David Armbruster questioned with the new subdivisions being put in at Chaffee Crossing, is the city undertaking additional street inspections. Stan Snodgrass stated

that the standard periodic street inspections were being performed by the City such as checking the road base and asphalt. Stan also noted that the day to day inspections are the responsibility of the design engineer for the subdivision.

Robert Brown asked about the status of the projects since our last meeting in November. Stan Snodgrass stated that TEC is still working on North 50<sup>th</sup> and should have a draft assessment around the end of this month. Regarding the extension of North 62<sup>nd</sup> street in front of the Walmart on Kelley Highway, we have not heard anything from the developer but they have cleared some trees from the site.

Aaron St. Amant stated that he received a report from the Arkansas State Police stating the number of accidents there were on the I-540 bridge which might cause traffic to be diverted to North 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Aaron St. Amant will e-mail the report to the committee members.

Robert Brown asked for an update on the report from Jennifer Walker, Finance Director, about the funding allocations to different departments. Stan Snodgrass stated that Jennifer is not here this week and but he had spoken to her last week about the report. Stan said he believed Jennifer had selected a firm and was in the process of getting a contract in place with them. Robert Brown questioned the amount of time the different departments would spend related to the streets, drainage and bridges program. Stan Vlademar asked who sets the standards for the distribution. Stan Snodgrass says that the Finance Department provides the allocation breakdown. Stan Snodgrass stated that he is of the understanding that the firm will look at all the different allocations for various funds and not just the street and drainage CIP.

Robert Brown asked what the status was on the Kelley Highway Project. Stan Snodgrass stated the project is still under design and referred to the CIP which notes that the right of way acquisition and utility relocation was not scheduled to begin until 2019.

Aaron St. Amant stated that he had driven through the Jenny Lind Road project and it looked good. Stan Snodgrass gave a brief update on the work completed and noted the project was about 38% completed.

Stan Vlademar asked how many companies typically bid on a city project and if the city always went with the lowest bidder. Stan Snodgrass stated it varies on the size of the project and what has to be completed but typically is around 4 to 6 bidders. The city typically always goes with the lowest bidder unless there is justification not to such as an unqualified contractor.

Robert Brown asked for an update on the options to reduce flooding in the May Branch area. Stan Snodgrass stated that it is a 2017 project with FTN Associates that was approved by the Board of Directors on December 20, 2016.

Stan Snodgrass stated that he, Greg Riley and Brian Waldrup met with a Pavement Management team about street rating. They are coming up with a proposal to review the streets and provide recommendations. The estimated cost is expected to be in the \$50,000 range to review the 500 miles of city streets.

Robert Brown asked where we are the Highway 45 project. Stan Snodgrass stated that we are working with the AHTD to get a formal cost sharing agreement to move the project forward.

#### Citizen's Forum

No one spoke at the citizen's forum.

The next meeting will be February 16, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the Planning Conference Room #326.

With no further discussion or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Aaron St. Amant at 12:52 p.m. and Stan Vlademar seconded the motion. 7 were in favor and 0 were opposed.